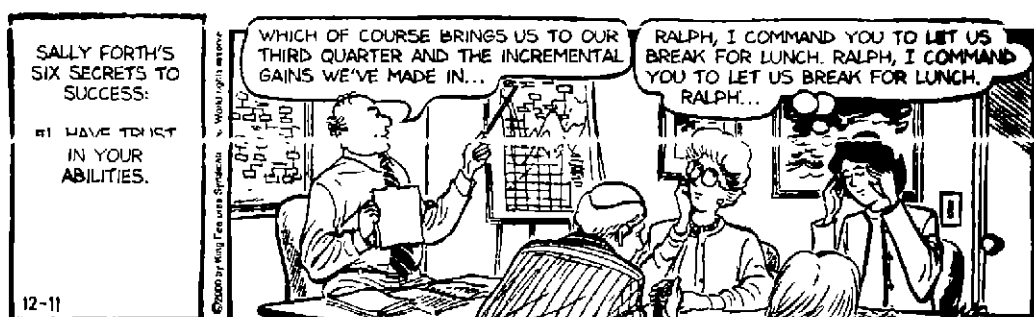


BLONDIE



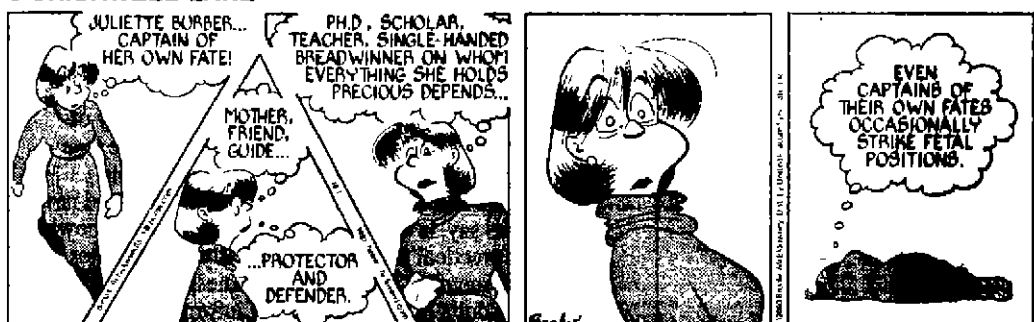
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



JUMP START



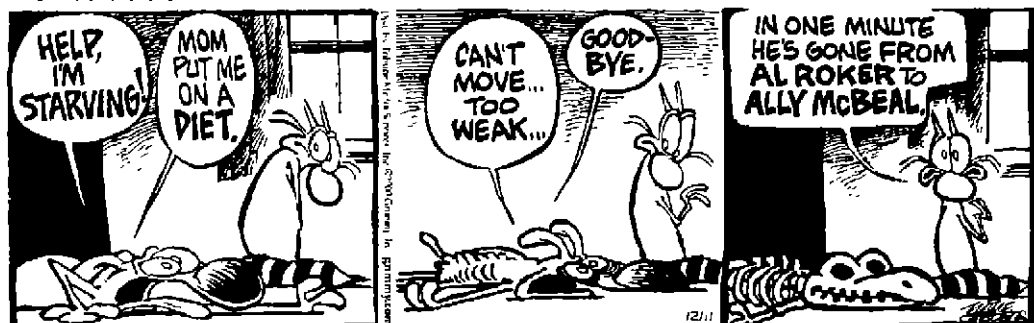
ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



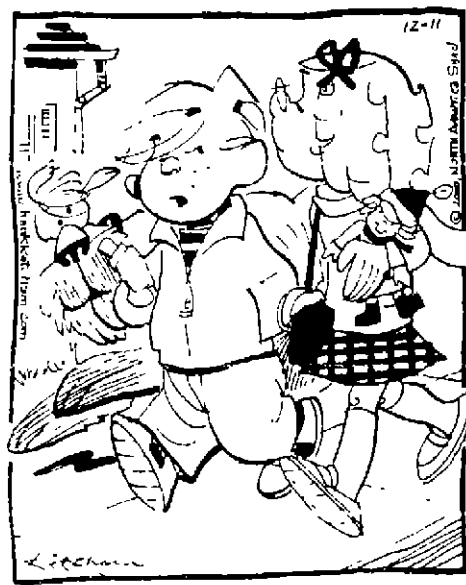
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



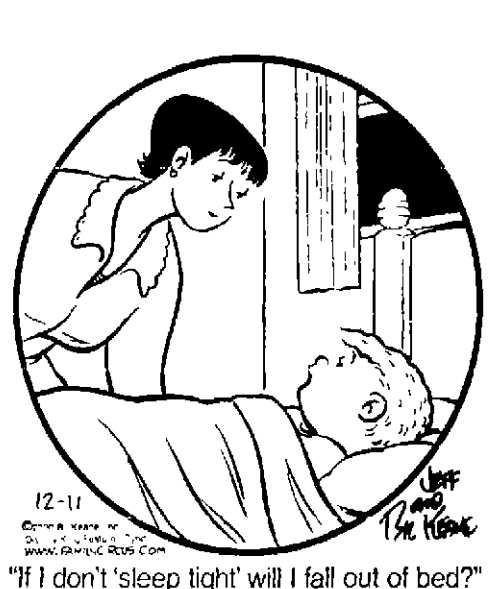
DILBERT



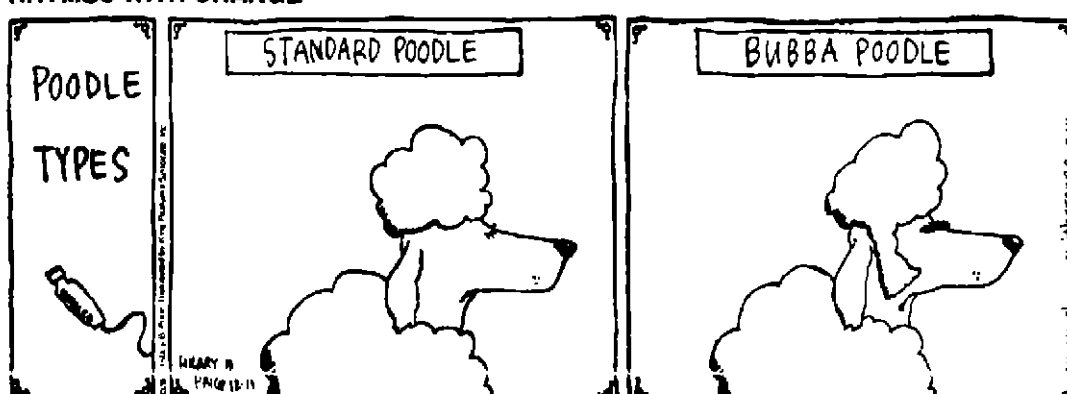
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



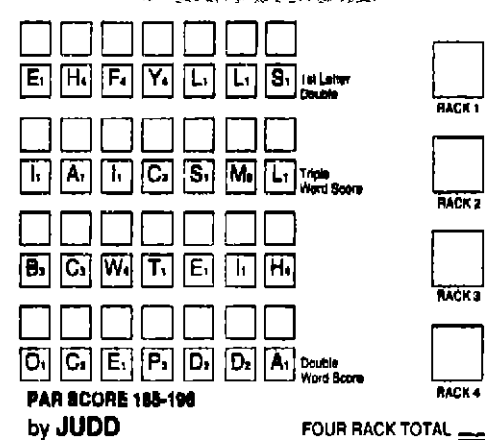
Today's Birthdays

Nobel Prize-winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn is 82. Actor Jean-Louis Trintignant is 70. Actress Rita Moreno is 69. Actor Ron Carey is 66. Pop singer David Gates (Bread) is 60. Actress Donna Mills is 57. Singer Brenda Lee is 56. Actress Lynda Day George is 54. Country producer Tony Brown is 54. Actress Teri Garr is 52. Movie director Susan Seidelman is 48.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE



PAR SCORE 185-196
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 letter words get 50 point bonus. "Banks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

NOT THEIR ORIGINAL NAME

FXVTRPNLEJHECTA
SYWVTRPNWPLKNIG
TENALYDBOBOACBY
IESIURCMOTRHZXN
NOSLOJLADGRWBUN
GDORISDAYSRMPOE
OMLJZANRAISEDIB
GEDBAYANLXWUTSK
QPREHCEELYGGPEC
ONLSNRUBEGROEGA
KJHGOREVNEEDNHOI

Saturday's unlisted clue: THURMOND
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Monday's unlisted clue hint: SONNY AND --

Al Jolson Desi Arnaz John Denver Sting
Bob Dylan Doris Day Mr. T Tom Cruise
Bob Hope George Burns Nero Woody Allen
Cary Grant Jack Benny Peggy Lee

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2000
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Tension at home might be a problem. Don't try to lose yourself in work.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Open your mouth and say what's on your mind.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're unusually emotional, and you might say something you'll regret.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Take a chance, as your personal stash of good luck is full to overflowing.
LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Though the surface appears calm, things are churning way down below.
VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Try to be in contact with as many people as possible at work — your time to shine has arrived.
LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Pay attention to small tasks; dot your i's and cross your t's. If storms appear, let them blow by.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Nurturing a loved one will take priority over business.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You might be called on to provide a shoulder to cry on.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Relationships are the hot issues, and you might find that you wish you were somewhere else.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your mind has been too busy for your own good lately. Here's a tip: just turn it off.
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) No matter what the calendar says, declare a personal holiday!

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

Dummy's heart ace won, and South played for the "queen to lie over the jack." He led a trump to his ace and another back to dummy's 10, losing to East's queen. Back came a heart to West's queen, and the slam failed in near-record time. Should South have finessed the other way? No. If West had the trump queen instead, the result would have been the same. North's advice about refusing to finesse was very sound advice indeed. After winning dummy's heart ace, South should play both his high trumps, claiming an overtrick if the queen drops doubleton. When the queen doesn't drop, South should cash his diamond king and overtake his jack in dummy. On dummy's third diamond, he discards a heart, relieved when neither defender ruffs. Now it's safe for him to discard his last heart on dummy's high diamond, with no fear of an opposing ruff. With his losing hearts disposed of, South can play on winners, limiting his losses to only the queen of trumps.

NORTH
K 10 8 3
A 6
Q 10 8
K 10 5

WEST
K 9 8 7
7 6 4
8 3 2

EAST
K 7 6
3 4 2
A 10 3
J 7 6

SOUTH
A 3 4 4
J 10 3
K J
A Q 3 4

Vulnerable Both
Dealer South

The bidding
South West North East
1NT Pass 2♦ Pass
2♦ Pass 4♦ Pass
4♦ Pass 6♦ All pass
Gerber ace-asking
** Two aces

Opening lead Heart King

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1030

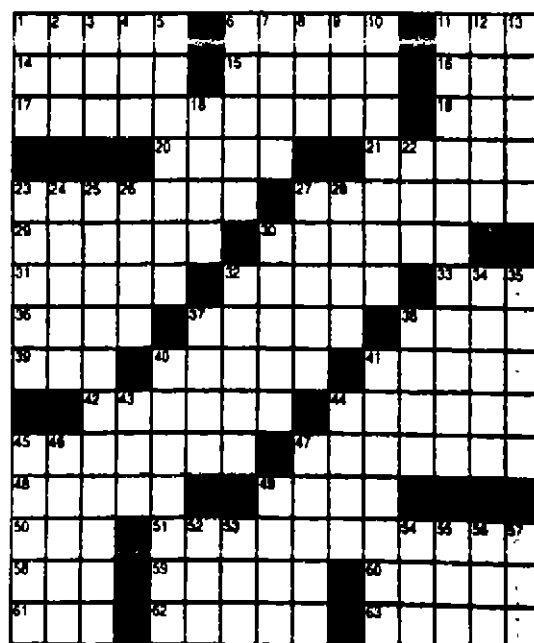
ACROSS
1 Dieter's lunch
6 Microwave maker
11 Prefixed with owned or occupied
14 Sidekick, south of the border
15 Cheapskate
16 Physicists get a charge out of it
17 Bureaucrat, say
19 Hallucinogen
20 Sail holder
21 "Dallas" matron
23 Exit, as a 747
27 Fur trader
29 U.F.O. crew
30 French 101, e.g.
31 Laughing
32 Side dish for a hot dog
33 2-Down members
36 Beach shades
37 Word with ticks or knuckles
38 One who's swooned over
39 Cone
40 Outer pie part
41 Lama
42 Jolly Roger flier
44 Busy person's reading
45 Soup cracker
47 Kicks out of the country
48 Unrefined
49 1988 World Series M.V.P.
50 At all
51 Wet blanket
58 Be untrustworthy
59 Thrill to death
60 Thomas of "That Girl"
61 Pay-view
62 Boot camp experience
63 Came up

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

KICK POETS
PINHEAD FATCATS
OTHELLO AUTOMAT
CHA PENPAL LEGO
KALE NASE KAISER
ERES EASELS TSE
TARTS TREKS
SEEMS REELS
SNAIL DOESY
CAN ADULTS EYU
ADOPTS MAN SPAR
TOSH CRAIGS INN
TRAINING THE FEDS
YELLING SYLUCIA
STONE ALLEN

DOWN

1 Tree juice
2 Health grp.
3 Back talk
4 85, say, for retirement
5 Inactive
6 Make smile
7 Rain forest feature
8 Wednesday
9 Born in Bordeaux
10 Money owed
11 Physician, disparagingly
12 Daytime TV host O'Donnell
13 Rear- (certain accident)
16 Partner of pots
22 The Beatles' "Revolver," "Abbey Road," etc.
23 Pub pastime
24 Cuban boat boy
25 Graduation handout
26 Tickler of the ivories
28 Periscope piece



Puzzle by Gregory E. Paul

27 Creamed chipped beef base
28 Baseball tally
30 Discontinue
32 Savage
34 Outdoor dinner
35 Vent features
37 Raisin
38 "Othello" enigm
40 Refrigerator part
41 Graduation handout
43 The "I" in T.G.I.F.
44 Like Crater Lake
45 Resell for profit
46 Gopher Palmer, informally
47 Clothesline alternative
48 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
52 Ring lung
53 Dustcloth
54 Rowboat rower
55 Tennis instructor
56 Overhead trains
57 Precious eggs

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5555 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-800-7-ACROSS.